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12 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
13 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

14 In re:

15 USA Commercial Mortgage Company,

16 Debtor.

17 Case No. BK-S-06-10725-LBR

18 Chapter 11

19 **SEVENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION**
20 **OF USACM TRUST TO PROOFS OF**
21 **CLAIM BASED IN WHOLE OR IN**
22 **PART UPON INVESTMENT IN THE**
23 **FOX HILLS 216, LLC LOAN**

24 Hearing Date: August 30, 2011

25 Hearing Time: 10:30 a.m.

26 Estimated Time for Hearing: 10 minutes

17 The USACM Liquidating Trust (the “USACM Trust”) moves this Court, pursuant
18 to § 502 of title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) and
19 Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), for an
20 order disallowing the Proofs of Claim filed by individual investors (“Direct Lenders”)
21 against USA Commercial Mortgage Company (“USACM”) to the extent such claims are
22 based upon an investment in a loan to Fox Hills 216, Fox Hills 73, Fox Hills 50, Fox Hills
23 26, Fox Hills Mitigation, and Fox Hills Fresno Slough, LLCs (collectively, the
24 “Borrower”). This loan was sometimes referred to as the “Fox Hill Loan” and that is how
25 the USACM Trust will refer to it here. This Objection will not impact the direct lenders’
26 claims to the extent those claims are based upon an investment in other USACM loans.

1 This Objection is supported by the Court's record and the Declarations of Geoffrey
2 Berman Edward M. Burr in Support of Omnibus Objections to Proofs of Claim Based
3 Upon the Investment in the Fox Hills Loan filed with the Court today (the "Burr Decl.").
4

5 THIS OBJECTION DOES NOT RELATE TO AND WILL NOT IMPACT THE
6 DIRECT LENDERS' RIGHTS TO REPAYMENT ON THE FOX HILLS LOAN,
7 SHARE IN ANY PROCEEDS GENERATED FROM THE SALE OF THE REAL
8 PROPERTY SECURING THE FOX HILLS LOAN OR SHARE IN THE RECOVERY
9 OF ANY FUNDS FROM THE GUARANTOR FOR THE FOX HILLS LOAN.

10 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

11 **I. BACKGROUND FACTS**

12 **a. The USACM Bankruptcy**

13 On April 13, 2006 ("Petition Date"), USACM filed a voluntary petition for relief
14 under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Debtor continued to operate its business as
15 debtor-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
16 Debtor's post-petition management of the Debtor was under the direction of Thomas J.
17 Allison of Mesirow Financial Interim Management, LLC, who served as the Chief
18 Restructuring Officer.

19 USACM was a Nevada corporation that, prior to the Petition Date, was in the
20 business of underwriting, originating, brokering, funding and servicing commercial loans
21 primarily secured by real estate, both on behalf of investors and for its own account. That
22 business included the solicitation of investors to purchase fractional interest in loans that
23 USACM originated and then serviced. These investors are referred to as "Direct Lenders"
24 in USACM's bankruptcy case and in this Objection.

25 On January 8, 2007, this Court entered its Order Confirming the "Debtors' Third
26 Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization" as Modified Herein [Docket No.
2376]. As part of the Plan, and pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement filed with this

1 Court, USACM sold the servicing rights to most of the loans it serviced to Compass
2 Partners, LLC and Compass Financial Partners, LLC (“Compass”), including the
3 Margarita Annex Loan. The sale to Compass closed on February 16, 2007.

4 The USACM Trust exists as of the Effective Date of the Plan, which was March 12,
5 2007. Geoffrey L. Berman is the Trustee. Under the Plan, the USACM Trust is the
6 successor to USACM with respect to standing to seek allowance and disallowance of
7 Claims under 11 U.S.C. § 502(a).

8 Upon information derived from filings in the United States District Court, District
9 of Nevada, *3685 San Fernando Lenders Company, LLC, et al v. Compass USA SPE, LLC,*
10 *et al*, No. 2:07-cv-00892-RCJ-GWF action, the Trust believes that “Silar Advisors, LP
11 (“Silar”) financed Compass’ acquisition of the Purchased Assets, including the loan
12 service agreements in the USACM bankruptcy case and took a secured interest in those
13 Purchased Assets by executing a Master Repurchase Agreement (“Repurchase
14 Agreement”) with Compass, and by filing a UCC-1 financing statement with the State of
15 Delaware.” *Id.* Docket 1250 at 13-14 (citations to declarations omitted).

16 Further, from filings in the same action, the Trust believes that “Effective as of
17 September 26, 2007, Silar foreclosed on Compass through Asset Resolution LLC (“Asset
18 Resolution”) and took ownership of the Purchased Assets. ... Silar created Asset
19 Resolution as a ‘single purpose entity,’ conveyed all of its interests in the Repurchase
20 Agreement to Asset Resolution, and Asset Resolution properly foreclosed on the assets of
21 Compass, including the Purchased Assets.” (Citations omitted.) Asset Resolution LLC is
22 now a debtor in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case pending in Nevada, case no. BK-S-09-32824-
23 RCJ, along with certain affiliates.¹ By Order entered on July 19, 2010 by the Hon. Robert

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¹ 10 90 SPE LLC, Fiesta Stoneridge LLC, CFP Gramercy SPE LLC, Bundy 2.5 Million
SPE LLC, CFP Cornman Toltec SPE LLC, Bundy Five Million LLC, Fox Hills SPE LLC,
HFAH Monaco SPE LLC, Huntsville SPE LLC, Lake Helen Partners SPE LLC, Ocean
Atlantic SPE LLC, CFP, Gess SPE LLC, CFP Margarita Annex SPE LLC, and Shamrock
SPE LLC.

1 C. Jones in the Asset Resolution Case, the servicing rights for 19 loans were transferred to
2 Cross, FLS. The Fox Hills Loan, was among the loans whose servicing rights were
3 transferred to Cross, FLS.

4 The Trust has attempted to monitor loan collections through monitoring the district
5 court litigation and the ARC bankruptcy case, but has received limited information
6 concerning servicing and resolution of direct loans by Compass/Silar/Asset Resolution or
7 their successors, including the trustee in bankruptcy for Asset Resolution. The Trust has
8 also been in contract with Cross FLC about certain loans that it is servicing, including the
9 Fox Hills Loan. The following is the extent of the USACM Trust's information on the
10 current servicing and status of the Fox Hills Loan.

11 **b. The Fox Hills Loan**

12 USACM circulated an Offer Sheet to prospective Direct Lenders soliciting funding
13 for an acquisition and development loan to a borrower identified as "Fox Hills 216,
14 LLC."² A copy of the Offer Sheet is attached hereto as **Exhibit B** and incorporated by
15 this reference. (Berman Decl., ¶ 4.) The total loan amount proposed was \$29,000,000.
16 The Offer Sheet described the investment as a "First Trust Deed Investment" and noted
17 that the investment would be secured by a first deed of trust on 987 acres generally known
18 as Fox Hills Phase II, which was being planned for approximately 900 homes. The Offer
19 Sheet noted that the second phase of the community was awaiting final entitlement
20 approval, which was estimated to occur in the summer of 2006. The Offer Sheet further
21 stated that the loan to value was approximately 55% based on values of similar properties
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25 ² The name of the borrower on the Offer Sheet is a different entity from the actual
borrowing entities that signed the loan agreement.

1 in the area.³ Pursuant to the Circular, the loan was intended to acquire the remainder of
2 the land acreage and water rights necessary to complete the master planned community.⁴

3 On January 23, 2006, the Borrower made and delivered to various lenders,
4 including the Direct Lenders identified in **Exhibit A**, a Promissory Note Secured by Deed
5 of Trust, in the amount of \$25,755,000 (the “Note”) and a Loan Agreement. (Berman
6 Decl. ¶ 5). The Loan Agreement and Note provided for potential future loan increases up
7 to \$29,000,00. (Berman Decl. ¶ 5). The Note was secured by a “Deed of Trust,
8 Assignment of Rents, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing” from Fox Hills Fresno
9 Slough, LLC in favor of the Direct Lenders that was recorded in the official records of
10 Fresno County, California on February 15, 2006 at Instrument Number 2006-0033494.
11 The Note was also secured by a “Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents, Security Agreement
12 and Fixture Filing” from Fox Hills 216, Fox Hills 99, Fox Hills 50, and Fox Hills Nursery
13 LLCs in favor of the Direct Lenders that was recorded in the official records of Merced
14 County, California on February 10, 2006 at Instrument Number 2006-011230. The Note
15 was also supported by an Unconditional Guaranty executed by Kent Hoggan and
16 Catamount Management, LLC on January 23, 2006.

17 The USACM “Loan Summary” dated July 31, 2006 and filed in this case shows
18 that Borrower was “Non-performing” on the Note as of July 31, 2006. (Berman Decl., ¶
19 6.) During this bankruptcy case through the transfer of servicing to Compass, USACM
20 treated the Direct Lenders with respect to any interim payments by the borrower in
21 accordance with this Court’s orders.

22 Counsel for the Trustee has been advised by a representative of Cross, FLS that the
23 accrued taxes on the property currently exceed the value of the property for the Fox Hills

24
25 ³ Although the Offer Sheet said that an appraisal had been ordered, counsel for the Trust
has been unable to locate an appraisal.

26 ⁴ The Loan Agreement stated that the loan was intended to “acquire and/or refinance” the
subject property.

1 Loan. Cross, FLS has been told by brokers that there is no interest in purchasing the land
2 for development (as had originally been planned), and that no such interest is anticipated.
3 Consequently, Cross, FLS has marketed the property's water rights and has entered into a
4 contract with a buyer, however, that sale has stalled due to the taxes on the property. The
5 guarantor has filed for bankruptcy.

6 **c. The Fox Hills Claims**

7 **Exhibit A**, attached, lists Proofs of Claim filed by Direct Lenders that appear to be
8 based upon investments in multiple loans, including the Fox Hills Loan. (Burr Decl. ¶ 7.)
9 **Exhibit A** identifies the Proof of Claim number, the claimant, the claimant's address, the
10 total amount of the claim and the total amount of the claim that appears to be related to an
11 investment in the Fox Hills Loan based upon the information provided by the claimant.
12 (Burr Declaration ¶ 7.) The claims listed in **Exhibit A** are referred to hereafter as the
13 "Fox Hills Claims." As required by Nevada LR 3007, a copy of the first page of the proof
14 of claim for each of the claims referenced in **Exhibit A** are attached as **Exhibit C**.

15 **II. JURISDICTION**

16 The Court has jurisdiction over this Objection pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334 and
17 157. Venue is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. This matter is a core
18 proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 502 and Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

19 The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are 11 U.S.C. § 502 and
20 Bankruptcy Rule 3007.

21 **III. APPLICABLE AUTHORITY**

22 Under the Bankruptcy Code, any Claim for which a proof of claim has been filed
23 will be allowed unless a party in interest objects. If a party in interest objects to the proof
24 of claim, the Court, after notice and hearing, shall determine the amount of the Claim and
25 shall allow the Claim except to the extent that the Claim is "unenforceable against the
26 debtor . . . under any . . . applicable law for a reason other than because such claim is

1 contingent or unmatured.” 11 U.S.C. § 502(b). A properly filed proof of claim is
2 presumed valid under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f). However, once an objection to the proof
3 of claim controverts the presumption, the creditor ultimately bears the burden of
4 persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim. *See Ashford v. Consolidated*
5 *Pioneer Mortg. (In re Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.)*, 178 B.R. 222, 226 (9th Cir. B.A.P.
6 1995), *aff'd*, 91 F.3d 151 (9th Cir. 1996).

7 **IV. THE OBJECTIONS**

8 The Fox Hills Loan appears to have been a legitimate, arms-length transaction with
9 a third party borrower. In addition, the Direct Lenders took a known risk by investing in a
10 promissory note secured by a lien on real property.

11 USACM is not liable for the Borrower's default or any decrease in the value of the
12 collateral.

13 The Direct Lenders fail to state a claim because USACM does not appear to have
14 breached the loan servicing agreements with respect to collection of the Fox Hills Loan.
15 USACM was under no duty to foreclose on the collateral securing the Fox Hills Loan or
16 take any other action.

17 This objection will not affect the Direct Lenders' right to be repaid on the Fox Hills
18 Loan by the Borrower, to recover from the sale of any collateral that secured the Fox Hills
19 Loan, or to recover on the guaranty supporting the Fox Hills Loan.

20 **V. CONCLUSION**

21 The USACM Trust respectfully requests that the Court disallow the claims against
22 USACM listed in **Exhibit A** to the extent that those claims are based upon an investment
23 in the Fox Hills Loan. This objection concerns only claims based upon an investment in
24 the Fox Hills Loan and not any other claims of any of the Direct Lenders. The USACM
25 Trust also requests such other and further relief as is just and proper.

1 DATED this 13th day of July, 2011.
2

3 LEWIS AND ROCA LLP
4

5 By /s/ Marvin Ruth (#10979)
6

7 Rob Charles, NV 6593
8

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24

25 Copy of the foregoing and pertinent
26 portion of Exhibit A mailed by first
1 class postage prepaid U.S. Mail on
2 July 13, 2011 to all parties listed on
3 Exhibit A attached.
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6 LEWIS AND ROCA LLP
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8
9 /s/ Matt Burns
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